Propane	$/MT	170	250
	Rs./MT	7,264	10,900
Butane	$/MT	180	240
	Rs./MT	7,691	10,464
Exchange rate considered		42.73	43.60

The domestic ex-storage point price (exclusive of duty etc.) of LPG for household use and commercial use (which is fixed by oil companies) during this period were as under:

Rs/MT

LPG	Jan'99	Nov'99
Packed Domestic	7958.29	8732.87
Bulk Industrial	12300	15700
Packed Non-Domestic	12600	17300

(c) The estimated subsidy during 1999-2000 on LPG (Domestic), based on current estimates is expected to be about Rs. 4770 crores or Rs. 124/cyclinder. In respect of commercial LPG, there is no element of subsidy.

LPG Agencies in Amritsar and Ferozpur Districts

2407. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new LPG Agencies in Punjab particularly in the districts of Amritsar and Ferozpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans, 69 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan for Punjab. This includes 7 LPG distributorships in Amritsar District and 5 LPG distributorship in district Ferozepur.

LPG Agencies Allotted to SCs/STs in Punjab

2408. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new LPG agencies allotted to SCs/STs in Punjab, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending with Government during the last two years district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to clear these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1.10.1999 there were 46 LPG distributorships in operation in Punjab belonging to Scheduled Castes and none for Scheduled Tribes.

(b) and (c) Two Dealer Selection Boards were constituted for Punjab for making selections for locations pending in the State. In respect of 68 LPG distributorships which have already been advertised interviews are to be conducted by the Dealer Selection Boards in Punjab.

Check on Growing Demand of Petroleum Products

†2409. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to check the constantly growing demand of petroleum products in the country;